

## CLAIMS

1. A method of optimizing a workflow management system (WFMS), said method being executable by said WFMS on at least one computer system, said WFMS accessing a WFMS database comprising at least one process model and instantiations of said process model (process instances), said method comprising the step of transferring objects of the WFMS database to an archive database.
2. The method of claim 1 in which the step of transferring objects of the WFMS database to the archive database is carried out if a predetermined event occurs.
3. The method of claim 1 in which the step of transferring objects of the WFMS database to the archive database is carried out if the objects are not currently used by the WFMS.
4. The method of claim 1 in which the objects transferred to the archive database comprise process instances.
5. The method of claim 4 in which the process instances transferred to the archive database are selected among instances of a certain process model depending on the value of certain properties of the process model.
6. The method of claim 4 comprising the further step of transferring from an application store to an application archive store data which is managed by programs that implement activities of a process model from which process instances are transferred to the archive database.
7. The method of claim 6 comprising the further step of transferring the data from the application archive store back to the application store.

8. The method of claim 1 in which the objects transferred to the archive database comprise process models.
9. The method of claim 1 comprising the further step of transferring the objects back to the WFMS database.
10. The method of claim 9 in which the objects are transferred back to the WFMS database when they are needed again.
11. A system comprising means adapted for carrying out the steps of the method of claim 1 whereas the system comprises an archiving database.
12. A data processing program comprising software code portions for performing the method of claim 1 when the program is executed in a data processing system.
13. A computer program product comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 1 when the program is executed in a computer.